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Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of
Intellectual Property Rights for Investment
(Sixth Session, 27 September 2004)

Progress report on support projects¹

(Note by the secretariat)

Introduction

This report summarises the activities of the UNECE Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment as it concerns the support projects being undertaken in accordance with the approved programme of work. The objectives of the support projects are to facilitate sustainable protection and enforcement of IPRs in transition economies, to create a climate favourable for domestic technological development and to support foreign and domestic investment.

(a) Ukrainian support project

At the request of the government of Ukraine the Advisory Group organized an enforcement-training seminar in Ukraine on 11-13 November 2003. The objectives of the Seminar were to provide an overview of various Intellectual Property Rights enforcement mechanisms and to present the challenges faced by the current IPR legislation and enforcement authorities in national, international and private sector organizations. The target audience of the Seminar were judges, officials from the State Department of Intellectual Property (SDIP),

¹ The document was submitted late because of the Steering Group Meeting of the Advisory Group on 9th of July 2004 which had to approve some of the items for discussions in the progress report for the Annual Session.

customs officials, police representatives and state inspectors. The seminar was held at the Ukrainian Industrial Property Institute in Kiev. The United States Patent and Trademark Office provided co-funding support to the Advisory Group for the organization of the seminar.

In reviewing the results of the seminar, the following points are made:

- The UNECE IPR Advisory Group received confirmation from the host government that in its view the Seminar had achieved its objectives
- International partners, such as WIPO, sent its appreciation of the organization of the seminar. It further assured UNECE of its intention to continue its cooperation with the Advisory Group

(b) Warsaw Internet Conference

At the invitation of the government of Poland a regional conference on “*Intellectual Property Exploitation in the Internet Era*” was held in Warsaw, Poland, from 1 to 2 April 2004. The conference addressed the issues and challenges of intellectual property enforcement in the Internet era in the context of the enlargement of the European Union and the challenges new member countries face in adoption of the *acquis communautaire* in the area of intellectual property rights. Participants attended the conference from Governments, private sector and academia together with representatives from the World Intellectual Property Organization, the European Commission, industry anti-piracy associations and INTERPOL.

The conference recommended the following.

- More attention needs to be paid by national and international policy makers on practical solutions to face this challenge
- There need to be tighter regulations and better enforcement of existing as well as new regulations
- There is a need for more education amongst national and international policy makers, industry and consumers on the importance of intellectual property for the Information Society
- Efforts should be made for improved cooperation between the public and private sector
- The UNECE Intellectual Advisory Group for the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment should continue to monitor and discuss these issues, providing a platform for cooperation between business and governments and working in close cooperation with WIPO and the European Union. Participants attended the conference from Governments, private sector and academia together with representatives from the World Intellectual Property Organization, the European Commission, industry anti-piracy associations and INTERPOL.

(c) Croatian Seminar

At the invitation of the Government of Croatia the UNECE IPR Advisory Group organized a Regional Seminar on “*The Role of Intellectual Property and Innovation in Economic Growth*” in Zagreb, Croatia, on 22-24 September 2004. The objective of the Seminar was to explore the links between Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights and the pace of economic growth in the economies in transition. Country representatives from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Macedonia, national and international industry and Advisory Group representatives attended the seminar.

(d) Romania Support Project

At the request of the Government of Romania the Steering Group has undertaken preparations for a consultative visit to Romania on 18-19 November 2004. Consultants have been commissioned. They have prepared a background report in preparation for the consultative visit. The Advisory Group will hold its consultative visit in Bucharest with the support of the Romanian Copyright Office and the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks.

(e) Proposed publication on “Intellectual Property, Development and Partnership”

At the 20th Steering Group meeting in London, United Kingdom, on 9th July 2004, it was proposed that the Group prepares a publication on “*Intellectual Property, Development and Partnership*” on the basis of their analysis, materials and networks. The target audience for the publication will be industry representatives, policy makers and economists working in Ministries dealing with Industry, Trade and Enterprise development. A group consisting of Mr. Wojciech Dziomdziora (Poland), Mr. Nikolaus Thumm (Switzerland) and Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton (UNECE Secretariat) was established to develop the format for the publication, and including Mr. Dan Anthony from the UK Patent office who will also provide editorial support.